



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Kind Removes Roadblocks to Healthy Child Nutrition

Legislation increases milk availability and healthy food consumption in schools; supports family farmers

Washington, DC – Wisconsin's children and family farmers will benefit greatly from modifications made by U.S. Rep. Ron Kind to the Child Nutrition Improvement and Integrity Act (HR 3873), which passed the House today 419-5. Rep. Kind's efforts to improve child nutrition and support family farmers resulted in three new provisions aimed at expanding the healthy choices available to children in schools.

"This bill makes significant strides in combating child obesity by giving kids more nutritious options and also works to support America's agriculture producers by increasing the availability of healthy choices in schools," said Rep. Kind, a member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, of the modified bill.

One of the measures Kind authored allows schools to offer milk as a nutritious option in vending machines without violating the exclusivity clause of commercial beverage contracts. The provision prohibits restrictions on selling or marketing milk at any time or any place on the school premises or at any school sponsored event for schools that participate in the school lunch program.

"With 90% of teenage girls and 70% teenage boys currently not getting enough calcium, it is imperative to provide increased availability of milk products in schools. This legislation is necessary in light of recent stories about school districts being pressured to remove milk vending machines at a time when kids need milk more than ever."

Two other Kind provisions are critical pieces of the final legislation. One provision, originally in the Farm-to-Cafeteria Projects Act of 2003 (HR 2626), allows farmers to sell products to local schools. Another provision pulled from the Child Nutrition Improvement Act of 2003 (HR 3250) will improve child nutrition by making it easier for schools to offer milk in a variety of flavors and fat contents to better meet students' varying tastes.

"Given the importance of milk as a principal source of calcium and the strong link between nutrition and academic performance, we must work to ensure that milk is easily available to children—in the cafeteria, a la carte lines and in vending areas," said Kind. "Central to this effort is the 'Farm to Cafeteria' provision, which will improve kids' food and beverage choices through improved relationships between schools and local farms."

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